

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for compressing still images that are stored in electronic media comprising the step of:

- a. selecting the image to be compressed;
- b. selecting the desired degree of compression;
- c. constructing filters, based on the desired degree of compression and physical characteristics of the image, for decomposition of the image by non-separable wavelet transformation
- d. transforming the image into an array of frequency coefficients of the pixels by executing one level of decomposition for each of the three filters;
- e. quantizing the values of the frequency coefficients; and
- f. encoding the quantized values by run length and arithmetic coding methods;

whereby the image is restored in the YCbCr format through the use of a pre-designated reconstruction formula; and transformed into the RGB palette after reconstruction is complete.